

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /046 W

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R 300730Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 480

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR JA

SUBJ: CHVAIR; GROUP PASSENGER STOP OVER RIGHTS

SUMMARY. JCAB HAS INFORMALLY ADVISED NORTHWEST AIRLINES (NWA) THAT IT CANNOT BOARD JAPANESE TOUR GROUPS DESTINED FOR MANILA IF ITINERARY INCLUDES STOPOVER AT NAHA TO VISIT EXPO 75. JCAB CONSIDERS THAT CARRIAGE OF SUCH GROUPS CONSTITUTES CABOTAGE. NWA QUESTIONS THIS INTERPRETATION OF CABOTAGE AND SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF STOPOVER RIGHTS UNDER U.S./ JJAPAN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS RE APPLICABILITY OF BILATERAL AND/OR OTHER AGREEMENTS IN THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. ISSUE OF GROUP TOUR STOPOVERS AT NAHA AROSE WHEN JCAB, IN ISSUING OPERATING PERIT FOR NWA'S APRIL 27 SCHEDULE, CAUTIONED CARRIER NOT TO SOLICIT ACTIVELY EXPO 75 TRAFFIC ON ITS TOKYO-MANILA SERVICE. IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS REQUET, NWA PROMPTLY INFORMED JAPAN ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS OF JCAB POSITION, BUT SHORTLY THEREAFTER ON AGENCY (NEW ORIENT EXPRESS) NEVERTHELESS PLACED ADVERTISEMENT IN "TRAVEL JOURNAL" PROMOTING EXPO 75 STOPOVER. JCAB THEREUPON ASKED NWA TO PUT AN IMMEDIARE STOP TO NEW ORIENT EXPRESS ADS AND TO REFUSE ACCEPTANCE OF TOUR GROUPS WHICH PLANNED NAHA STOPOVER ENROUTE TO MANILA.

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2. CONCERNING ADVERTSIING, NWA HAS REQUESTED NEW ORIENT EXPRESS TO REFRAIN FROM PROMOTION OF MANILA SCHEDULE BY EMPHASIZING NAHA STOPOVER PRIVILEGE, AND AGENCY HAS AGREED TO DO SO IN FUTURE ALTHOUGH IT UNABLE TO WITHDRAW

ADS ALREADY IN PRINT.

3. RE JCAB INSTRUCTON NOT TO ACCEPT GROUP PASSENGERS STOPPING OVER AT NAHA, NWA SOUGHT FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON MAY 22 IN MEETING WITH TOYA, ACTING DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION. ACCORDING TO NEW REP, TOYA CONCEDED CARRIER'S RIGHT TO CARRY INDIVIDUAL PASSENGERS WHO WISH TO STOP OVER IN NAHA ENROUTE TO MANILA, BUT DENIED THAT IT HAS RIGHT TO SLOICIT JPANAEESE TOUR GROUPS WHO WISH TO MAKE STOPOVER. ALTHOUGH JCAB RECOGNIZED THAT NWA HAS ASKED AGENTS TO DISCONTINUE PUBLIC SOLICITATION OF EXPO 75 TRAFFIC, JCAB CONCLUDES THAT ACCEPTANCE OF ANY GROUP TRAFFIC FOR NAHA-MANILA SEGMENT IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT NWA IS NOT COMPLYING WITH CONDITION RELATING TO APPROVAL OF ITS APRIL 27 SCHEDULE. ONLY WAY, ACCORDNG TO JCAB, THA NWA CAN DEMONSTRATE COMPLIANCE IS BY REFUSING TO CARRY ANY TOUR GROUP TRAFFIC WHICH INVOLVES A NAHA STOPOVER.

4. NWA RE PTOOK POSITION WITH JACAB THAT U.S. CARRIER'S OPERATING RIGHSUNDER BILATERAL AVIATION AGREEMENT ARE NOT CONIDIGIONED BY INTEENTIONS OF PASSENGERS; IF AJAPANESE BUSINESSMAN HAS RIGHT TO STOP OVER AT NAHHA, JAPANESE TOURSIST OR TOUR GROUP MUST HAVE SAME RIGHT. THUS, NWA WILL NOT REFRAIN FROM BOOKING TOUR GROUPS, NOR WILL IT DENY BOARDNG TO TOUR GROUPS ALREADY CONFIRMED, UNLESS JCAB ISSUES FORMAL WRITTEN "CEASE AND DESIST" ORDERR. NWA REP ALS INDICATED THAT SINCE ISSUE INVOLVED INTREPREATION RESOLVE MATTER ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS.

5. EMBASSY CMMMENT:WE ADVISED NEW REP THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO PROHIBITION IN BILATERAL AGAINST PASSENGER STOPOVERS AT POINTS ON AGREED ROUTES EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY PROVIDEDM IN FOOTNOTE TO JAPAN ROUTES (1) AND (2) . ALSO NOTED THA THERE MAY BE OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENTS OR UNDERSTANDINGS CONCEERING STOPOVER RIGHTTS, BUT THAT WE WOLD NEED TO SEEK DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON THIS POINT AS WELL AS ON QUESTION OF JCAB'S INTERPRETATION OF CABOTAGE TRAFFIC IN RELATION TO EXPO 75 STOPOVERS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ON THESE QUESTIONS ASAP SO THAT REPRESENTATIONS TO GOJ, IF INDICATED, CAN BE MADE IN ADVICE OPENING OOF EXPO 75 OO JULY 29.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AVIATION AGREEMENTS, CIVIL AVIATION, LANDING RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO07125
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750189-0448
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaafq.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971016
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAIR, JA, US, JCAB, NORTHWEST AIRLINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006